SC status to carpenters of H.P.

†729. SHRI KRIPAL RARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon the reconstitution of the State and inclusion of some parts of Punjab in Himachal Pradesh, the Members of Parliament, representatives of the people and the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh have requested to eliminate ongoing discrepancy between *Tarkhan* (carpenter) and *Luhars* settled in new areas and to announce the *Tarkhan* Community as the Scheduled Castes like *Luhars*;

(b) if so, when the request was made and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Resolution passed by Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha was received in May 1999, recommending therein inclusion of Tarkhan in the list of Scheduled Castes in the entire State of Himachal Pradesh. Subsequently, some Members of Parliament also reiterated the proposal.

(c) The proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh to include Tarkhan in the list of Scheduled Castes in Himachal Pradesh was processed in accordance with the approved modalities and since the National Commission for Scheduled Castes did not agree to the proposal of the State Government, the same was rejected.

Employment to disabled persons

730. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons who have been provided with employment by the Central and State Government agencies and PSUs during 2000 to 2004 as mandated by the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1995; and

(b) the steps taken by the State Government and the Commission of Persons with Disabilities to ensure implementation of the reservation in Government jobs as provided in the Act?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.